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OCI 3962

AHIC(W)-D-11
26 February 1954

Proposed Preamble to the
Watch Committee Terms of Reference

The Soviet/Communist bloc, as a potential aggressor, has the capability to initiate suddenly at any time, in a place and by methods of its own choosing, hostile action in such strength as to gravely threaten the security of the United States. The Mission of the Watch Committee, therefore, is one of the most important responsibilities, probably the most important, of the IAC agencies to the NSC. The discharge of the watch function, to provide earliest possible warning of hostile action, will be undertaken by the IAC agencies as a matter of the highest priority.

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|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Document No. | 12 |
| No Change in Class. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Declassified | |
| Class. Changed to: TS | S 1989 |
| Next Review Date: | |
| Auth.: HR 70-3 | |
| Date: 2/26/79 | By: 029804 |

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